



SR0262

LRB101 11708 MST 58221 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of William F. "Bill" Merna of Canton, who passed away on March 16, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Merna was born in Bloomington to William R. and Lida M. (Whittington) Merna; he graduated from the Spalding Institute in Peoria and married Della Lou DeWitt in Peoria on September 3, 1949; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Merna retired from Nabisco in 1988 after a 43-year career; he was a popular salesperson, affectionately known as the "Cookie Man"; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Merna was a 60-year member of the Knights of Columbus; he was a past Grand Knight of the St. George Council 3934 in Canton; he was a 3rd and 4th Degree Knight, working both the Tootsie Roll Drive and the weekly Bingo game; he enjoyed camping and attending the Knights of Columbus International Camporee, which he and his wife even hosted once; they also enjoyed camping at the Illinois State Fair; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Merna liked to walk in the woods, searching for mushrooms; he also liked deer and squirrel hunting trips; and

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1 WHEREAS, Bill Merna was a member of St. Mary's Catholic
2 Church in Canton; he volunteered for funeral dinners and the
3 food pantry; he spent many hours helping as a committee member
4 and leader of the St. Joseph's Cemetery Committee; he also
5 cheerfully delivered Meals on Wheels; and

6 WHEREAS, Bill Merna was known as "Uncle Bill" to countless
7 nieces, nephews, and cousins, some of whom were two and three
8 times removed; he was a mentor, role model, and dear friend to
9 so many more; he was devoted to his family and attended all the
10 events he could; and

11 WHEREAS, Bill Merna was preceded in death by his parents;
12 his wife of nearly 60 years, Della; his grandson, Adam Hindle;
13 and his sisters, Mary (Dick) Koehne and Eleanor (Jerry) Menke;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Merna is survived by his children, William M.
16 Merna, Nancy (Larry) Hindle, Phyllis (Lynn) Jarvis, Timothy A.
17 (Carol) Merna, and Thomas E. (Alisa) Merna; 13 grandchildren;
18 21 great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Eva Gilchrist; his
19 brother-in-law, Frank (Joyce) DeWitt; and his sister-in-law,
20 Marian DeWitt; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 William F. "Bill" Merna and extend our sincere condolences to
3 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Bill Merna as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.